

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 08217 020650Z

15
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7724
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: SYMBOLIC GESTURE TO THE BASQUES

1. THE CABINET MEETING OCTOBER 29 AGREED TO PROPOSE TO THE KING THE DEROGATION OF THE DECREE LAW OF JUNE 23, 1937 IN WHICH FRANCO EARLY ON IN THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR, ABOLISHED FOR THE ANTI-FRANCO BASQUE PROVINCES OF VIZCAYA (BILBAO) AND GUIPUZCOA (SAN SEBASTIAN) THE SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE STATUTES (FUEROS) WHILE LEAVING THEM IN FORCE FOR THE TWO BASQUE PROVINCES OF ALAVA AND NAVARRA THAT LARGELY SIDED WITH THE NATIONALISTS.

2. THE KING'S APPROVAL IS OF COURSE CERTAIN. THE ACTION IS SYMBOLIC, REMOVING A PUNISHMENT UPON THESE BASQUE PROVINCES THAT LINGERED PAST ALL REASON. BUT THE DECREE INSTITUTES NOTHING BY WAY OF SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS, WHICH WAIT UPON EFFORTS AT A POLITICAL SOLUTION. BASQUE LEADERS, MODERATE AND OTHERWISE, HAVE BEEN QUICK TO POINT OUT THAT THE DECREE WILL NOT SOLVE THE BASQUE ISSUE. NONETHELESS, IT IS A USEFUL EXPRESSION OF GOOD WILL TOWARDS THE BASQUES AND OF A WILLINGNESS, IN THE LONGER RUN, TO
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PAGE 02 MADRID 08217 020650Z

ATTEMPT A POLITICAL SOLUTION.

STABLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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